

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-14 are pending in the application. Claims 2-14 have been rejected. Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the objection raised in paragraph 2 of the Office communication. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully note that the drawings have not been considered by the Examiner, despite Applicants request in the previous responses. Review and acknowledgement that the drawings are approved by the Examiner are respectfully solicited.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manico et al. (Manico), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0236716 in view of Yip et al. (Yip), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0128390 in view of Alvesalo, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0222899, Salmi et al. (Salmi), European Patent Application No. EP 1 117 230 A2, and further in view of Yoon et al. (Yoon), U.S. Patent No. 6,678,689.

Manico discloses, in paragraphs [0005], [0006], a method for customizing a presentation of a set of digital images, comprising the steps of selecting an initial presentation format criteria for the set of the digital images by the user; thereby, the operation is not automatic. Then, in Manico, the presentation also includes a selection menu for providing instructions for modifying and/or changing the presentation to a second presentation format; selecting the instructions and forwarding the selected instructions to a service provider for implementing with regard to a modified format and representing the images in association therewith to the user: these operations are therefore not completely “automatic” in Manico.

Moreover, Manico discloses too that metadata information (dates, times, subjects of the images) may be used to group with an algorithm (i.e., automatically) the images in the first presentation in a certain way, or present them in a particular order. In addition, an algorithm can analyze (i.e., automatically) the image content to give a semantic information which may be used to influence this first presentation. However, afterwards, if the user is not satisfied with the first

presentation, she accesses a selection of new presentation formats in making new format choices (*see*: paragraph 23; figure 4 of Manico, steps 195, 200, 205); therefore, compared for example with steps g) or h) of claim 2 of the present application to transform the initial multimedia messages or to form the composite multimedia message, the selection of new presentation format(s) is not automatic in Manico.

Manico discloses, in paragraph [0023], preparing a multimedia presentation based upon the user-selected format. Manico discloses, in paragraph [0023], that new presentation (format) choices may be supplied to enable their viewing and selection.

In conclusion, the layout process of Manico is not fully “automatic”. Manico does not disclose or suggest a process adapted to enable an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message, as it is claimed in particular from steps f) to step h) in claim 2 of the present application. Nowhere Manico discloses or suggests, as in step f) of claim 2 of the present application, automatically analyzing and recording relational data between at least two selected multimedia messages, said relational data weighting a relationship level between each of the selected multimedia messages, by using sequential and semantic data of the at least two selected multimedia messages. And, Manico does not disclose or suggest, as defined in steps g) and h) of claim 2 of the present application, automatically determining, according to recorded sequential, semantic, and relational data, at least two transformed multimedia messages corresponding to key parts of initial multimedia messages previously selected, and automatically laying out according to programmed formats on at least one page, a composite multimedia message formed from at least two transformed initial selected multimedia messages, the number of said at least one page being less than the number of the at least two initial selected multimedia messages.

Yip disclose, in paragraph [0028], a scalable vector graphics page layout logic which determines the optimal position and maximum number of images that can be laid out on a page using the print page layout format. Yip discloses a method for processing digital images comprising a specification for a page layout format, from a specification of a plurality of images, and displaying the page positioning the specified number of images. Yip discloses a SVG page layout logic

suited for printing a maximum number of specified images on a single page, and if the number of images specified exceeds the maximum number of images that can be printed on a single page, the SVG page layout logic formats the remaining specified images on another page(s) (*see*, in Yip: pages 2-3, paragraph 28). The SVG page layout logic of Yip determines the optimal position and the maximum number of images that can be laid out on a page using the print page layout format. The SVG page layout logic employs the position feature inherent in the SVG format to efficiently and effectively position and/or orient the images on a print page layout suitable for printing (*see*, in Yip: pages 2-3, paragraph 28). In fact, Yip's SVG page layout logic optimally positions, and possibly sizes, selected images on a suitable number of pages (*see*, in Yip: paragraphs 38, 48). However, Yip discloses basically a positioning of images. Thereby, Yip does not disclose or suggest, from an automatic analysis of sequential, semantic and relational data of at least two selected initial multimedia messages, the relational data weighting a relationship level between each of the selected initial multimedia messages by using the recording sequential and semantic data to automatically determining at least two transformed multimedia messages corresponding to key parts of the selected at least two initial multimedia messages, and then, automatically laying out, with programmed formats, on at least one page having a first format, a composite multimedia message formed with at least two transformed multimedia messages, from the at least two selected initial multimedia messages. Yip does not disclose or suggest notably the automatic transformation of the at least two selected initial multimedia messages to keep only key parts of the initial multimedia messages on at least two transformed multimedia messages. Therefore, Yip does not overcome the deficiencies of Manico, to arrive at least to steps f) to h) of claim 2 of the present application.

Alvesalo discloses a method and a system for creating a multimedia show or presentation including, for example, images and text. Alvesalo discloses at least one template that defines a structure for the multimedia show (*see*, for example, claims 2 and 35 of Alvesalo). In Alvesalo, a predefined template is used to define a structure for the multimedia show; template, for instance, with multiple content components (picture, text, and/or audio) selected by a user, and placed by the user in the template (*see*, for example, paragraphs 7, 21, 23, 30 and figure 3 of Alvesalo).

Indeed, in Alvesalo, the user selects a template and content components for the template, correlating the content components to the template. The requested content components are transmitted to an editor tool. When the editor tool has all the contents components, it creates the desired multimedia show according to the structure of the template and the corresponding images. However, Alvesalo does not disclose or suggest a process which enables an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message, layout carried out from an automatic sequential, semantic, and relational analysis of data of initial multimedia messages, to determine key parts of initial multimedia messages in view of forming transformed multimedia messages laid out to make up a composite multimedia message, as defined from steps f) to h) in claim 2 of the present application.

Moreover, in Alvesalo, the multimedia show is a slide show not formatted to fit on a single page or screen. In Alvesalo, it is difficult or even impossible to show the whole template displayed in one screen, so the keyboard of the terminal is used for scrolling the active view of the template and review all of the template (*see*, paragraph 25 of Alvesalo). Contrary to the present invention for which the composite multimedia message formed of several multimedia messages is automatically displayed on the terminal screen with several multimedia messages per page of screen (*see*, for example, page 10, lines 5-10 and figure 4 of the present application), Alvesalo must scroll to display only one template (i.e.: one multimedia message) in its entirety. Thus, considering this technical limitation of Alvesalo, Alvesalo teaches away from the claimed invention by teaching a need to scroll to see a single template. Therefore, Alvesalo does not overcome the deficiencies of Manico and Yip, to arrive at least to steps f) to h) of claim 2 of the present application.

Salmi discloses a method and a system for presenting information from a multimedia message containing one or several multimedia components and addressed to a mobile station, in using a SMIL presentation model known per se (*see*, in Salmi: paragraphs 1, 17, 19-21; figure 6a). The person setting up a multimedia presentation can construct one or several multimedia page(s) by compiling desired multimedia components, and by placing them in the desired locations corresponding to text or image zones. The multimedia page is transferred to a compiling block to form a multimedia file. And, the compilation file forming the compiling block is a

SMIL format. The presentation model (SMIL) is added to the message (*see*, in Salmi: paragraphs 17, 19, 20; figures 5a, 6a). Salmi is directed to information transformation, such that all components of a message will be received between different formats. However, Salmi does not disclose or suggest a process which enables an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message, layout carried out from a sequential, semantic, and relational analysis of data of initial multimedia messages, to determine key parts in view of forming transformed multimedia messages laid out to make up a composite multimedia message, as defined from steps f) to h) in claim 2 of the present application. Therefore, Salmi does not overcome the deficiencies of Manico, Yip, or Alvesalo, taken separately or in any combination, and none of the references in any combination teach steps f) to h) of claim 2 of the present application.

Yoon discloses a method for browsing a multimedia (for instance, a motion picture) in using defined priorities and/or weights of multimedia data segments and semantic elements. Yoon's method enables to display segments linked with a selected semantic element in sequence according to the priority or weight information using the link information, if a semantic element (for instance, "Pinocchio") is selected for browsing based on semantic elements; and displaying sections which describe semantic elements linked with a selected segment (for instance: segment 1 may include sections in which the front of Pinocchio appears in close-up) in sequence according to the priority or weight information using the link information, if a segment is selected for browsing based on segments (*see*, column 6, lines 39-67; column 8, lines 53-67; claim 10). Therefore, Yoon discloses a link information (relational data) for connecting semantic elements and structure elements (which can contain sequential data), wherein the link information includes a priority weight information between semantic and segments. Yoon only discloses how a user can browse more efficiently segments or sections of a motion picture or a video, in selecting a semantic element or a segment. However, Yoon does no longer overcome the deficiencies of Manico, Yip, Alvesalo, or Salmi, taken separately or in any combination, to teach at least steps g) and h) of claim 2 of the present application, that is automatically determining, according to said recorded sequential, semantic, and relational data, at least two transformed initial selected multimedia messages

corresponding to key parts of at least two selected initial multimedia messages, and then, automatically laying out, with programmed formats, on at least one page having a first format, a composite multimedia message formed from the at least two transformed multimedia messages, on the basis of the at least two selected initial multimedia messages.

In view thereof, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been able to combine the teachings of Manico, Yip, Alvesalo, Salmi, and Yoon, in any combination to arrive at all the combined features defined in claim 2 of the present application, in particular the sequence of the automatic steps f) to h).

Indeed, the invention of the present application relates to an automatic layout process for a composite multimedia message. The automatic layout is performed from an automatic semantic, sequential, and relational analysis of data of various selected initial multimedia messages which are automatically transformed to keep only key parts of the initial multimedia messages, and laid out to form the composite multimedia message, such as the number of page(s) forming said composite multimedia message is less than the number of the initial selected multimedia messages (*see*, in the present application: page 1, lines 1-12; page 3, lines 24-31).

Unlike the invention of the present application, Manico, Alvesalo, Salmi, and Yoon do not disclose or suggest, as in claim 2 of the present application, an established function adapted to enable an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message from initial and transformed multimedia messages, such as defined above (*see*, previous paragraph). Therefore, there is no motivation or predictability in the prior art for combining properly Manico, Alvesalo, Salmi, or Yoon with Yip. Yip is in fact the only prior art reference disclosing an automatic page layout of images, this automatic layout being however restricted or limited to an optimal positioning of the images on the page(s). That is, Yip does not disclose, suggest, or make predictable, for example, the function of transformations, as defined in step g) of claim 2 of the present application, of said images to position them on said page(s).


In the present application, the need for the series of steps a) to i) to implement the automatic process appears to be a significant indicator of the presence of an unpredictable step, particularly due to the fact that claim 2 in its entirety is neither fully known, derivable, or established without inventiveness from the cited prior art references. Ex post facto analysis should be avoided in regard to the process of claim 2 with which it is theoretically attempted to show how it might be predictably arrived at, starting from many prior art documents.

Therefore, any combination of the teachings of Manico, Alvesalo, Salmi, Yip, or Yoon does not teach, disclose, or suggest all the features of the claimed invention. Applicants have discussed the rejection with reference to independent claim 2, and note that because the combination of the cited prior art references does not teach all the features of claim 2, the prior art references also do not teach all the features of claims 3-14 dependent from claim 2. For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 2-14 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Claims 2-14 are now deemed allowable. Favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner require anything further, or have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.